



BRIARWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL UPPER SCHOOL REMOTE LEARNING PLAN

March 28, 2020

Dear BCS Students and Parents,

Grace and peace in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! As we all are adjusting to our “new normal” for however long or short the Lord may have it, I write to share multiple matters of interest with you. Before I begin please let me say how sorry I am for the disruption the coronavirus has caused to your Briarwood experience over the last few weeks and into the near future. Our hearts go out to all of you who have had performances, athletic seasons, trips, projects and special events either cancelled or suspended. We feel that pain and burden *with* you. Yet here we are, by God’s grace, ready to embark on a new journey in our educational process. Thankfully, in the Lord’s providence, we have had two weeks to plan and prepare for this coming Monday. We look forward to rolling out our Remote Learning Plan. I highly stress the importance of ALL parents and ALL students sitting down and reading through this letter together. There are several attached documents that I will reference, and it will be important to review each of those also. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of our tips, suggestions, and recommendations.

IMPORTANT: Please reference this page as it will have all the resources mentioned in this letter. [Briarwood Christian School's Remote Learning Plans](#)

TIPS FOR REMOTE LEARNING

There are many aspects that will be the same for all students as we embark on remote learning (same classes, same teachers, same classmates) and yet the “classroom setting” and the receiving, delivery and submitting of work will vary from our norm. PLEASE review the “tips for remote learning” (**see Remote Learning webpage**) as there are some very good suggestions that we are offering as you consider the best learning environment, preparation, and engagement with our new teaching-learning process.

TOOLS FOR REMOTE LEARNING

All students should have the tools listed in the first two columns below accessible to them via their iPad. The 3rd column is a list of resources that are best accessed on a personal device. You can expect any number of these resources to be utilized on a daily basis. Should you have technological difficulties with your iPad or apps, please email our IT department at helpdesk@bcsk12.org.

IPAD APPS

Gmail
Google Docs
Google Slides
Google Classroom
Google Forms
Notability

IPAD APPS

IXL
Quizlet
iMovie
Camera
Bible
etextbooks

PERSONAL DEVICE

Zoom
AP Central (AP students)
Turnitin.com
Khan Academy (Math)
HTML pHet (Physics)
OWL (AP Chem)



LEARNING PLANS

Our teachers have worked diligently under the watchful eye of our Dean of Academics, Dr. Heather Mays, to create engaging, purposeful weekly plans that will be sent to students Monday morning between 7-8am. Instead of sending daily work, the focus of our planning has been to create and provide meaningful units of study where most are designed to be completed by Thursday at 3pm. During this first week, we understand there will be some adjustments to this new learning style. I have heard of schools where students have felt absolutely overwhelmed at the daily amount of work given and this most certainly is not what we want for our students here at Briarwood. We desire this learning experience to be meaningful, enjoyable and challenging, but manageable. During the planning process, each of our teachers submitted their plans to both their departments and their grade levels for evaluation to ensure that the type of work and the amount of work being required were both reasonable and manageable for our students. Running each weekly plan through this grid, we believe we are ready to offer students a robust and reasonable academic program via remote learning. Friday will be used for teacher grading and assessment feedback to students.

WEEKLY RHYTHM OF INSTRUCTION

We will NOT be assigning work over the weekend. New assignments will be posted Monday morning between 7-8am. The rationale for this is two fold:

1. Teachers need time to adjust lesson plans based on work submitted from students and their own evaluation of how each week progresses.
2. It is my sincere hope that our students' "sabbath" from their remote learning. If we give students new work on Friday, the days and weeks will run together as some will start work immediately. Our kids and families need to step away on weekends. Get outside and enjoy the spring weather!

TEACHER OFFICE HOURS

Central to the mission and work of Briarwood are the relationships between faculty and students. We are committed to maintaining those relationships despite our required "social distancing". Our aim in remote learning is to create a learning environment in which instruction and conversations would be undertaken in much the same manner as if things were continuing in a normal fashion. All upper school teachers will be accessible to students Monday - Thursday 9am-12pm. Each teacher will notify students of the best way to communicate with them during this time.

TUTORING SERVICES

Several of the tutors approved through our screening process and used regularly by BCS families have offered to provide tutoring services via video conferencing apps such as Zoom, Skype, and Facetime. A list of the tutors is provided on the **Remote Learning webpage**. Please contact the tutors directly for information about rates and availability.



DAILY FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Our Dean of Discipleship, Mr. Bryan White, has created a wonderful weekly devotional guide for your family to use during this time together. (**See Remote Learning webpage**) We *highly* encourage families to set time aside to first have family meals together, and then to spend time in God's word together using the devotional guide and the provided discussion questions. Talk about what God's Word has to say to you in this moment in time we are experiencing both here at Briarwood and around the world. The Brower family will be using this guide for sure!

BRIARWOOD FAMILY CONNECTIONS

It is our plan to send videos to you that would provide a semblance of some of our communal gathering events that are meant to encourage, inspire, and give you a sense of our continued connectedness and belonging. We would very much encourage EACH student to begin their Monday morning opening up the Monday morning devotion before jumping into your academic work. In addition, we would encourage all students to take a break on Thursday and to open up the brief chapel talk around 10:30am. We love the idea that around 10:30am, all students are hearing the same message simultaneously.

- Monday - video daily *devotions*
- Thursday - video *chapel* message
- Friday - "*Friday Flashback*" - we will send you a great BCS video of something that has occurred in the past to (3Rs) reflect, remember, and rejoice in the great experiences the Lord has allowed us to enjoy together.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PLANS

In an effort to stay connected and continue to support our students with an active 504 plan through our Academic Support Program, we will host scheduled Zoom video calls for ASP students Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Parents, it will be important for your child to have a device accessible to them so they may participate in these scheduled Zoom calls. (See the schedule below.) Students will need to click on the link that will be sent to them in an email from the ASP instructor and select "join a meeting" to join the call at their assigned time. (Please **see Remote Learning webpage** for further explanation of the focus for each of these Zoom calls.)

Weekly Calendar Check:

(Patterson)

Monday 9:00 am - 9th graders

Monday 10:00 am - 10th graders

Monday 11:00 am - 11th graders

Monday 12 noon - 12th graders

(VanderWoude)

Monday 9:00 am - 7th graders

Monday 10:00 am - 8th graders

HS SERVICE HOURS

Considering that we are in the middle of a pandemic, you may be wondering how you are going to earn the rest of your service hours or if we are even still requiring students to complete their service hours. The truth is the world around us needs us now more than ever and, as I mentioned in



my first video chapel, this pandemic has provided us with an opportunity to “extend [our] arms” and serve others. Therefore, we are still requiring students to complete their required hours as part of their grade for their Bible course (10 hours for freshman and sophomores; 20 hours for juniors and seniors). While there may be opportunities for you to serve your neighbors—mowing a neighbor’s lawn, making a run to the grocery store for an elderly neighbor—we want to encourage you to practice social distancing and to only engage in opportunities that your parents are comfortable with. Understanding that this may greatly limit your opportunities, we want to expand your options by allowing you to serve those closest to you—your family. There are plenty of great ways to do this that will make things easier on your family as your parents attempt to navigate uncharted waters. Service must still be voluntary and you can’t receive payment for your services, but there are many great ways to serve around the house including: mowing the lawn, “babysitting” younger siblings, cooking a meal, making a grocery run, cleaning the house, doing the laundry, and more! As you log hours, simply list your parents as the supervisor—be sure to include their email address—and have them verify your hours. As some of you still have yet to create an **X2VOL** account or join your groups and goals for the year, we have included brief instructions on how you can do that (**see Remote Learning webpage**). We look forward to seeing all the great ways you serve in the midst of the storm!

AP COURSE CONTENT AND ABBREVIATED AT HOME EXAMS

By now, our AP teachers and students have received official word via email from College Board that AP course content and exams have been altered to accommodate the unique learning environments of the COVID-19 pandemic. On Friday, March 21st, our AP teachers reviewed the content that will be on each exam and made adjustments to the remaining units of the semester and their exam review plans. They will be rolling out their new plans with students on March 30th, including student access to daily live reviews through the AP website and information about free-response questions for review. The College Board will be providing additional information about the at-home exams on April 3rd; we plan to update students and families as soon as we have more information. To get the latest updates in real time, you can follow College Board's account on Twitter, @CollegeBoard. As an additional resource(s), the College Board is offering free daily classes and review sessions at these two sites.

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/ap/pdf/ap-class-schedule-daily.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/advancedplacement>.

BRIARWOOD YOUTH GROUP - BYG / RAIDERS

Jay Shaw, the Youth Pastor at Briarwood, and the Briarwood Youth Staff, are producing content specifically designed to help your student in their walk with the Lord during this season. This content includes weekly talks, student testimonies, daily devotionals, and even some fun online games/challenges. You can access all of this content through Instagram, Youtube, or the Briarwood youth website at www.briarwood.org/youth. The BYG (senior high) Instagram is: Briarwood Youth Group. The Raiders (jr. high) Instagram is Briarwood.raiders. The Youtube channel is: Briarwood Youth Group. I would encourage all of you to follow them on these social media platforms. In addition, the youth staff has made themselves available to minister to any of our students who have need. If you would like for one of the youth staff to reach out to your student or you would like to



receive weekly parent emails from Jay, please email the Student Ministry Administrative Assistant at cyoungblood@briarwood.org.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

As we evaluate our current circumstances and heed wise counsel of the experts, we are simply taking this one week at a time. As soon as we have an update for the return to Briarwood or a possible extension of our remote learning, we will be sure to share this with you ASAP.

In the midst of this trying time, I remain grateful to God for each one of you. I fully anticipate a tenacious student body full of good cheer and well motivated to tackle this new opportunity. For maybe a little motivation for your children, here is the link to a video I sent out on Thursday.

[A Principal's Encouragement for Remote Learning](#)

A lesser student body would gripe and moan, or would check out from the educational process. Instead, I have heard great stories already of how you have worked to stay connected, demonstrated care and concern for this situation, and how you are lifting up our school in your prayers. I am so proud of how you are responding in great Lion Pride fashion! GO LIONS!

In the love of Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Shawn Brower". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Shawn Brower
Head of the Upper School